

Serial No. 10/676,875
Amdt. dated August 9, 2005
Reply to Office action of Sept. 26, 2005

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 9, 2005. Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claim 5 was rejected as being indefinite. The Examiner states that the limitation "said terminus" in line 3 lacks a sufficient antecedent basis.

The applicants would like to point out that the exact phrase used in claim 5, line 3 is "said terminus point". It is further noted that claim 5 depends from claim 4, and that claim 4, line 2 includes this phrase: "wherein said signal input line has a terminus point". Therefore, the term "said terminus point" in claim 5 is referring to the signal input line's "terminus point" introduced in claim 4. The applicants assert that claim 4 provides a clear and sufficient antecedent basis for "said terminus point" in claim 5.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by a patent application to Vaitkus et al.

Claim 1 is herein canceled.

Claims 3, 4 and 6 have been amended to depend from claim 2, which has been rewritten in independent form per the Examiner's suggestion, as discussed below. As such, claims 3, 4 and 6 should be allowable along with the rewritten claim 2.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 5 and 13-17 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Vaitkus et al.

Serial No. 10/676,875
Amdt. dated August 9, 2005
Reply to Office action of Sept. 26, 2005

Claim 5 depends from claim 4, which, as noted above, depends from the rewritten claim 2. In addition, claims 13-17 have been amended to depend from the rewritten claim 2. As such, claims 5 and 13-17 should be allowable along with the rewritten claim 2.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8-12 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of a patent to Qiu et al.

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claim 9 depends from claim 8, which, as noted above, depends from the rewritten claim 2. In addition, claims 3, 6, 8, 10-12 and 14-17 have been amended to depend from the rewritten claim 2. As such, all these claims should be allowable along with the rewritten claim 2.

Rewritten in Independent Form

The Examiner notes that claims 2 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

In response:

- claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of its base claim (1). There are no intervening claims.

- claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of its base claim (1). There are no intervening claims.

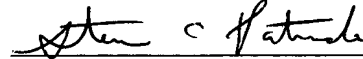
Therefore, claims 2 and 7, and all claims that depend from them (3-6 and 8-17), should be in proper form for allowance.

Claim 21 was found to be allowable as originally written.

All of the claims presently in the application are believed to be patentably distinct with respect to the cited art and to otherwise be in proper form for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 10/676,875
Amdt. dated August 9, 2005
Reply to Office action of Sept. 26, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Steven C. Patrick
Registration No. 40,341
Attorney for Applicant

September 26, 2005

KOPPEL, JACOBS, PATRICK & HEYBL
555 St. Charles Drive, Suite 107
Thousand Oaks, California 91360
(805)373-0060